

Message Text

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH
AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 WARSAW 1260

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD EIND ENRG ECIN PL UR COMECON EALR
SUBJ: POLISH-SOVIET ECONOMIC COOPERATION

REF: (A) WARSAW 0918 (NOTAL, (B) WARSAW 0692 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING THE RECENT VISIT OF JAROSZEWICZ TO MOSCOW FOR ECONOMIC TALKS WITH KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV, THE POLISH PRESS HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES ON INCREASED TRADE AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE USSR. ONE OF THEM MENTIONS SOME SPECIFIC SUBJECTS WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT THE MOSCOW MEETING. THEY INCLUDE
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JOINT POLISH-SOVIET PRODUCTION OF PLATFORMS FOR OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS DRILLING, JOINT PRODUCTION OF EQUIPMENT FOR ATOMIC POWER PLANTS, POSSIBLE FURTHER POLISH CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES ON SOVIET TERRITORY IN EXCHANGE FOR RAW MATERIALS, AND INCREASED SOVIET SUPPLY TO POLAND OF RAW MATERIALS AND MACHINERY, ESPECIALLY MINING MACHINERY, IN EXCHANGE FOR POLISH COAL AND OTHER PRODUCTS. THE PRESENCE IN MOSCOW (ABOUT FEB 11) OF POLISH MINISTER OF MINING

LEJCZAK FOR TALKS WITH SOVIET MINISTERS OF COAL INDUSTRY, GEOLOGY AND GAS INDUSTRY ON "COOPERATION IN DELIVERIES OF MINING MACHINERY," AND ALSO ON EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL GAS INDICATES THE POSSIBILITY OF IMMINENT ACTION IN THESE AREAS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE WAKE OF THE JANUARY 30 - 31 VISIT OF POLISH PREMIER JAROSZEWICZ TO MOSCOW, THE POLISH PRESS HAS PUBLISHED SEVERAL ARTICLES DISCUSSING POSSIBLE INCREASED TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION WITH THE USSR. THESE HAVE INCLUDED A SHARP ATTACK BY VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE DLUGOSC ON THE ALLEGED INCREASE IN PROTECTIONISM IN THE INDUSTRIAL WEST. DLUGOSC ADVOCATES STRONGER DEVELOPMENT OF COMECON INTEGRATION AS "AN EFFECTIVE DEFENSIVE SHIELD FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" AGAINST WESTERN TRADE BARRIERS.

3. THE MOST SPECIFIC COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT WAS DISCUSSED AT THE MOSCOW MEETING AND SOME CLUES ABOUT WHAT MAY BE PLANNED FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS APPEAR IN AN ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIC WEEKLY, ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE, ON FEBRUARY 12. UNDER A PHOTOGRAPH OF JAROSZEWICZ GRINNING AT A RATHER SMUG BREZHNEV WHILE KOSYGIN LOOKS ON FROM THE RIGHT AND A FRAMED PHOTOGRAPH OF V.I. LENIN PROVIDES A MARXIAN BLESSING FOR THE TRINITY, THE ARTICLE DISCUSSES WHAT IT CALLS THE PREMIER'S "TWO-DAY WORKING VISIT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT NEEDS OF THE POLISH AND SOVIET ECONOMIES." THE SPECIFIC POINTS MENTIONED INCLUDE:

(A) JOINT PRODUCTION OF DRILLING PLATFORMS FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN COASTAL WATERS;
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(B) THE PRODUCTION IN POLAND, IN COOPERATION WITH SOVIET PLANTS, OF EQUIPMENT FOR ATOMIC ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS;

(C) THE POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER POLISH CONSTRUCTION OF PIPELINES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT ON SOVIET TERRITORY - IN VIEW OF PREVIOUS POLISH EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA - IN RETURN FOR WHICH THE POLISH ECONOMY WOULD BENEFIT FROM DELIVERIES OF (SOVIET) RAW MATERIALS;

(D) JOINT PRODUCTION OF LARGE DUMP TRUCKS;

(E) CONDITIONS FOR THE SUPPLY OF FUEL, RAW MATERIALS, AND "MATERIALS FOR PRODUCTION AND THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION, ESPECIALLY IN MINING MACHINERY, CHEMICAL EQUIPMENT, ENERGY AND TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT."

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3287

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USINT HAVANA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION USNATO

AMCONSUL KRAKOW POUCH

AMCONSUL POZNAN POUCH

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4. THE ARTICLE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION AGREED UPON CAN TAKE PLACE VERY SOON - IN THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. OTHER ASPECTS MUST BE PLANNED FOR FUTURE FIVE-YEAR PERIODS. THE IMPORTANCE OF COOPERATION IN LARGE-SCALE, SERIAL (ASSEMBLY-LINE?) PRODUCTION WAS STRESSED AND THERE WERE REFERENCES TO THE FIXING OF TARGET DATES FOR THE CONCLUSION OF DETAILED AGREEMENTS. THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED SOVIET DELIVERIES TO POLAND OF CONSTRUCTION AND AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY, AND ALSO "A SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION OF EXPORTS OF SOVIET MINING MACHINERY IN EXCHANGE FOR POLISH COAL AND OTHER PRODUCTS" WAS ALSO CONSIDERED. AND THERE WAS THE USUAL REFERENCE TO INCREASED EFFORTS FOR MULTILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION WITHIN THE COMECON INTEGRATION FRAMEWORK.

5. COMMENT. READING BETWEEN THE LINES AND ALSO JUDGING FROM THE TONE OF BOTH THE DLUGOSC AND ZYCIE GOSPODARCZE ARTICLES, WE THINK IT PROBABLE THAT THE POLES AND SOVIETS REACHED SOME PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT ON FURTHER COOPERATION. IT ALSO SEEMS PROBABLE THA THE POLES EMPHASIZED THEIR INCREASING NEED FOR SOVIET OIL AND RAW MATERIALS WITH PAYMENT TO BE MADE IN CLEARING ZLOTYS, TRANSFERABLE RUBLES OR POLISH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. THE LAST NAMED METHOD WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY CITED BY FINANCE MINISTER KRZAK

DURING HIS JANUARY MEETING WITH SENATOR STEVENSON (REF B), AND WE THINK IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS POLAND MAY BE BUILDING ANOTHER PIPELINE IN THE USSR -- ITS THIRD AFTER ITS ORENBURG CONTRIBUTION AND THE POLOTSK-BALTIC CRUDE OIL LINE.

6. THE ARTICLE'S SEVERAL REFERENCES TO INCREASED EXPORTS OF SOVIET MINING EQUIPMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR POLISH COAL ALSO APPEAR SIGNIFICANT. ON FEB 11, THE WARSAW PRESS REPORTED THE PRESENCE IN MOSCOW OF POLISH MINISTER OF MINING WLODZIMIERZ LEJCZAK FOR TALKS WITH THE SOVIET MINISTERS FOR COAL, GEOLOGY AND GAS INDUSTRY. THE REPORTED SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION WERE FURTHER POLISH-SOVIET "COOPERATION AND MUTUAL DELIVERIES OF MINING MACHINERY ... AND COOPERATION IN THE AREA OF GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE GAS INDUSTRY." THE EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED THAT THE WIDE-GAUGE RAILWAY LINE BEING BUILT TO KATOWICE FROM THE SOVIET FRONTIER WILL HAVE A BRANCH SPUR TO THE COAL MINES IN THE LUBLIN REGION. THIS WOULD FACILITATE AN INCREASE IN POLISH COAL DELIVERIES TO THE USSR, WHICH NOW TAKES ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF ALL POLISH COAL EXPORTED.

7. WE HAVE NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN ANY REFERENCES TO POLISH-SOVIET COOPERATION ON PRODUCTION OF OFFSHORE DRILLING PLATFORMS.
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POLISH COOPERATION IN PRODUCTION FOR ATOMIC POWER STATIONS -- THE ARTICLE SAYS THAT "SPECIFIC PROPOSITIONS FOR POLISH PRODUCTION HAVE BEEN PREPARED" -- ARE DIRECTLY IN LINE WITH POLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN INTERATOMENERGO, THE COMECON ORGANIZATION WHICH, UNDER SOVIET DIRECTION, IS TO HELP ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES CONSTRUCT ATOMIC POWER PLANTS DURING THE CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IT IS ALSO PERTINENT THAT THE HEADQUARTERS OF ANOTHER COMECON ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION, INTERATOMINSTRUMENT, IS IN WARSAW.
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